[1st February 1929

## Minor Irrigation

*Alleged charging of dufasli water tax for plantain trees raised on the bunds of consolidated wet fields.*

*1266 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 280 given on 15th March 1927 regarding the alleged charging of dufasli water tax for plantain trees raised on the bunds of consolidated wet fields—

(*a*) whether the report called for has been received;

(*b*) if so, what that report is;

(*c*) whether Government are aware that the plantain trees on the field bunds would be watered only when there is water in the field and that under those circumstances water-rate is charged for the whole field including the area covered by the bunds;

(*d*) whether it is the intention of the Government to levy separate water charge for the trees on the bunds when water-rate is levied on the whole area including the bunds; and

(*e*) whether Government propose to discontinue the practice of charging water-rate separately for the plantain trees on the bunds of consolidated wet fields?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A copy of the Collector's report [a] is attached.

(*c*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

(*d*) & (*e*) No water-rate is levied on wet lands. But if a dufassal crop, such as plantains, is raised and irrigated with Government water for more than six months on the whole or part of a single crop wet field, half the wet assessment is charged, in addition to the ordinary wet assessment, on the field or on the portion of the field so irrigated.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"With reference to the answer to (*d*) and (*e*), is it not a fact that the consolidated wet assessment includes water-rate also?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"That is a matter of opinion. The theory is when the assessment is made, the crops on such bunds should also be taken into account."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"Is it a fact that for purposes of assessment lands include bunds? Are not bunds entitled for the water without any separate water-rate?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Separate water-rates are levied only on dry lands and additional assessment is charged for dufassal crops, as explained in the answer."

Mr D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"The hon. Member may be aware that there is no irrigation separate from the bunds. If there is no water in the fields themselves, how can there be a separate water-rate for the bunds alone?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"There is no separate water-rate. That portion of the field which is cultivated with plantains is charged half assessment in addition, whether it is bund or field."

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 640 infra.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" In his report, the Collector says that where the bunds are irrigated by percolation, they are charged separately. So, when there is no separate wate-rrate for the field itself, how can there be a separate water-rate for the plantains and trees on the bunds when they were irrigated by percolation ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I have said again that they have charged half the wet assessment."

## Panchayat Forests

*Forest panchayats in Kurnool district.*

* 1267 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, in reference to answer given to question No. 960 on 29th November 1928,—

(a) whether he has received the report called for ; and

(b) if he has received it, whether he will be pleased to lay it on the table ?

*A.*—(a) & (b) The report called for has not been received yet.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. the Revenue Member is prepared to expedite the answer to this question, so that I may have it at the next meeting ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" A reminder has been sent ; I shall see a special reminder is sent."

## Public Service

*Maintenance of registers under the Tottenham Scheme.*

* 1268 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government or the Board of Revenue have passed an order on what is called the "Tottenham Scheme" under which no Revenue office need maintain any register showing the receipt or despatch of papers and if so, to what effect ; and

(b) whether under the scheme any officer keeping any register like that referred to in (a) would be punished ?

*A.*—(a) No such order has been passed.

(b) The scheme nowhere prescribes punishment for maintaining registers. Apart from the scheme the maintenance of unauthorized registers to the neglect of prescribed ones might in certain circumstances be a fault meriting punishment.

## Reforms

*Evidence before the Simon Commission.*

* 1269 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of the officers who are appearing before the Simon Commission on behalf of the Government of Madras ;